

*typed - 7 Feb. 1958
for Khrushchev's speech*

Until recently, agriculture has been neglected by the Soviets. In 1954, the Bloc as a whole was a net importer of food. This shortage has been overcome primarily by the plowing up of 90 million acres in the eastern region of the Soviet Union. This is an area roughly double the wheat acreage in the United States. This so-called "new lands" area has been so successful that Khrushchev believes he can surpass the US in the per capita output of milk this year, 1958, and in meat by 1960-61. These are ambitious goals, but the Soviets have made considerable progress toward achieving them even though they are behind schedule.